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Kingsbridge Rural District Council

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REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year 1971

KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE AREA DURING 1971.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I present herewith the Annual Report on the health of the area during 1971, drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Health and Social Security Circular 1/72, dated January, 1972. Included in this Report is the Report of your Chief Public Health Inspector.

STATISTICS

The Registrar General's population estimate of 12,360 persons is based upon the preliminary results of the 1971 Census.

There were 127 births, giving a Standardised Birth Rate of 12.6 per thousand population, the same as last year, and below the National Average of 16.0 per thousand.

A total of 189 deaths occurred, giving a Standardised Rate of 12.4 per thousand which is above the National Rate of 11.6.

It will be interesting to see the census figures when they are published to find out the age structure of the population for it would seem there may be a preponderance of elderly people and a falling off in the number of young couples.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Seven types of infectious illness were notified. The largest number was 80 measles which occurred during the middle months of the year.

INFECTIONS COMMON TO FARM ANIMALS AND MAN

Amongst the four Rural Districts of South West Devon (Kingsbridge, Plympton, Tavistock, Totnes), a total of 49 out-

breaks of Salmonella infection and 6 outbreaks of Brucellosis were reported in 1971.

District	Salmonellosis	Brucellosis
Kingsbridge Rural District	14	2
Plympton Rural District	15	1
Tavistock Rural District	10	0
Totnes Rural District	10	3
Total ..	49	6

This is a marked improvement since 1970 when there were 100 outbreaks of Salmonellosis and 10 outbreaks of Brucellosis.

Fortyeight of the Salmonella outbreaks were due to Salmonella dublin and one outbreak was due to Salmonella typhimurium. No human illness resulted from these infections.

In the Brucellosis outbreaks all the milk was sent to a Creamery for pasteurisation which rendered it safe, but at one farm in the Totnes Rural District where the family drank raw milk, three persons went down with Brucellosis.

WATER SUPPLY

Mains water is supplied by the South West Devon Water Board, and the supply has been excellent. The water is regularly sampled by the Board, and during the year no adverse reports were received.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the staff and Councillors for their help and encouragement during the year.

JOHN WILDMAN,

Medical Officer of Health

July, 1972.

ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1971.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Herewith I submit my report on the work of the Public Health Department during the year ended 31st December, 1971.

SEWERAGE

Bigbury-on-Sea and Challaborough

The new contact stabilisation plant came into operation in June. Some teething troubles have been experienced with pumping equipment and controls but the treatment plant, dealing with a wide variation of flows, has proved most satisfactory.

Brownston

No progress whatsoever has been made in providing a treatment works for this hamlet.

Loddiswell

Providing capital monies are available, it is anticipated that the resewering and the provision of a new treatment works will commence in the next financial year.

Stoke Fleming

A minor scheme to duplicate a section of the sewer serving Deer Park estate in order to prevent surcharging of the main sewer, was completed during the year.

Modbury

Our Consulting Engineers have prepared a scheme for the resewering of Modbury and the construction of a new disposal works. The scheme is being submitted to the Ministry and various other bodies for observation.

Slapton

Various works to improve treatment of sewage at Slapton were commenced during the year, and will be completed early in the coming year.

East Portlemouth

One sea outfall at East Portlemouth has been extended into deep water, and work is in progress at the other outfall to superimpose a settlement tank system on the sewer, and to extend the outfall.

Maintenance

A number of minor improvements have been made to various sewerage and sewage disposal systems throughout the District. It is essential that such work continues in order to maintain standards, particularly on those disposal sites where, due to housing development, the inflow of sewage is far in excess of design figures.

HOUSING

There was a decrease in the number of houses represented as unfit. This was attributable to the fact that only a relatively small number of dwellings throughout the District remain unfit, and a great deal of work has been done voluntarily by owners to raise the standards of properties.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

It is difficult to draw a true comparison between the work done this year with that of the previous year, due to the change in policy of making 'discretionary' improvement grants during the year 1970.

Whilst the number of standard applications was reduced considerably, the volume of work in connection with discretionary grants was significant. There was also a definite increase in the number of enquiries and applications for conversion grants. This is occasioned by the change in agricultural policy, and the fact that many old farm buildings are becoming obsolete for modern farming practice, and that planning permissions are being obtained for the conversion of such buildings for residential and holiday purposes. A number of such buildings are not, in my opinion, of sufficient quality and soundness to provide satisfactory accommodation for human habitation, and I am pleased that on occasion, often under a great deal of pressure, the Council has accepted this

view.

The making of grants to properties used solely for holiday purposes still causes acrimony and tends, in my opinion, to create a general bias against grants. I think this is understandable in an area where so many of the older cottages are being bought by people from outside the District at exorbitant prices, and then improved and occupied for only a few weeks of the year.

MEAT INSPECTION

The volume of work carried out this year was approximately the same as that last year. Although the amount of meat condemned was much lower, there was a slight increase in the percentage of carcases affected with disease.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The position with regard to major caravan sites remains reasonably satisfactory. Improvements are continually being made, and standards are slowly rising.

There is a demand for additional touring caravan sites, and this is to a large degree being met by the increase in the number of exempted sites - that is sites with five caravans. Personally, I feel that this is to be encouraged rather than the development of larger mobile sites.

Last year I reported on the need, as I saw it, to maintain a balance between the demands of caravanners and the local populace, and I still feel that this is a matter of extreme importance, particularly in view of the proposed motorway development.

REFUSE

The rise in the volume of refuse collected annually continues, and has now reached such a degree that even with two large fifty-cubic yard capacity vehicles in operation, the service is stretched to breaking point on occasions.

In this pre-amalgamation period, it seems expedient to carry on with the same set-up regarding the collection service, but in view of the very limited life of that section of Molescombe now in use for disposal services, it is imperative, I think, that steps should be taken by the new Disposal Authority to programme for alternative disposal arrangements or for the extension of tipping facilities at Molescombe Quarry.

OIL POLLUTION

Oil pollution in varying degree remains a hardy annual. Pollution of beaches on the westward seaboard occurred in August, necessitating immediate action by Council employees and by private contractors.

GENERAL

The number of sanitary inspections shows an increase over those of last year, with added emphasis being placed on such matters as sewerage and sewage disposal, caravans, food premises, petroleum acts, oil pollution and fire regulations.

The figures also indicate less emphasis being placed on houses and nuisances. In the former case, this is to a large extent attributable to the fact that basically our stock of houses is of a good standard, and improvement works are being carried out, often with the help of grant aid. There is, however, still a number of properties which are sub-standard and others which require improvement to modern standards in order to extend their useful life.

One aspect of administration during the last year which gained importance is that relating to the extensive legislation concerning transport. There seems little doubt that future transport costs are bound to increase substantially in order to comply with existing legislation, and also to the increasing cost of repairs and the age of vehicles.

In last year's Report I referred to the amount of rodent control work being carried out as a result of notifications from the public. This year there has been a complete switch around, the majority of treatments being carried out as a result of inspections by the Council's rodent operator.

In conclusion, I would thank all members and staff for their encouragement and support during the year, and I would like to pay particular tribute to Mrs. Osman who has the ability to remain calm and efficient under all strains and provocations.

D.J. COLE,

Chief Officer and Chief
Public Health Inspector

July, 1971.

A P P E N D I X

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS, 1971.

Table 1

Figures for 1970 are shown in brackets

POPULATION

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Kingsbridge Rural District:	12,360	(12,130)
Natural increase or decrease	-62	(-33)
Migration in or out	+292	(+83)
Total increase or decrease	+230	(+50)

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Kingsbridge Rural District in acres:		70,818
Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Book (1.4.71):		
Number of Inhabited Houses	5,172	(5,128)
Number of Houses per acre	0.073	(0.072)
Number of Persons per acre	0.174	(0.171)
Number of Persons per House	2.390	(2.365)
Dwellings owned by the Council	756	(756)
Rateable Value of District:	£397,005	(£381,465)
Sum Represented by a New Penny Rate:	£3,787	(£1,522) (Old currency)

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS, 1971.

Table 2

Figures for 1970 are shown in brackets

BIRTHS

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population		12.6	(12.6)
Area Comparability Factor for Births		1.22	(1.22)
Number of Live Births	**Males**	**Females**	**Total**
Total	72	55	127
Legitimate	63	50	113
Illegitimate	9	5	14
Number of Still Births	0	1	1

DEATHS

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population		12.4	(10.5)
Area Comparability Factor for Deaths		0.81	(0.81)
Number of Deaths	**Males**	**Females**	**Total**
All ages - Total	108	81	189
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	0	0	0
Number under 4 weeks of age	0	0	0
Number under 1 week of age	0	0	0
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births		0.0	(16.0)

COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Birth Rate	16.0	(16.0)
Death Rate	11.6	(11.7)
Infantile Mortality Rate (Infants under 1 year of age)	18.0	(18.0)

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1971

		Male	Female	Total
1.	Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, etc.	1	0	1
2.	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	0	1
3.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	3	5
4.	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	1	0	1
5.	Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	1	0	1
6.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	10	1	11
7.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	0	3	3
8.	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	5	-	5
9.	Leukaemia	2	0	2
10.	Other Malignant Neoplasms	8	8	16
11.	Diabetes Mellitus	0	2	2
12.	Other Endocrine, etc., Diseases	2	0	2
13.	Anaemias	0	1	1
14.	Other Diseases of Nervous System	1	0	1
15.	Hypertensive Disease	1	2	3
16.	Ischaemic Heart Disease	33	11	44
17.	Other forms of Heart Disease	9	5	14
18.	Cerebrovascular Disease	6	26	32
19.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	9	3	12
20.	Pneumonia	2	2	4
21.	Bronchitis and Emphysema	1	1	2
22.	Asthma	0	1	1
23.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	1	3
24.	Peptic Ulcer	1	1	2
25.	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	0	2	2
26.	Cirrhosis of Liver	0	1	1
27.	Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	0	2
28.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
29.	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	0	2	2
30.	Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	1	0	1
31.	Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	2	4	6
32.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	0	2
33.	All Other Accidents	1	1	2
34.	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	0	1
		108	81	189

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES - CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1971

Table 1

Disease	Total	Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65
Measles	80	0	30	47	1	2	0
Whooping Cough	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Infective Jaundice	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	3	0	0	1	2	0	0
Viral Meningitis	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Tuberculosis (lungs)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

Table 2

Disease	Total	Incidence by Quarters			
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Measles	80	0	16	64	0
Whooping Cough	1	0	1	0	0
Scarlet Fever	1	0	1	0	0
Infective Jaundice	1	0	1	0	0
Food Poisoning	3	0	0	3	0
Viral Meningitis	1	0	0	1	0
Tuberculosis	1	1	0	0	0

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES OF VACCINATION

In accordance with the requirements of the World Health Regulations, certificates of Smallpox and Cholera vaccinations in respect of persons travelling abroad were authenticated by the Public Health Department. An average of twenty or so such certificates are dealt with each week.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 and 1951

No action was necessary under Section 47 of the 1948 Act, or under the (Amendment) Act, 1951, for the removal and detention of persons in need of care and attention.

No burials took place under Section 50 of the 1948 Act.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. Hospitals

A General Practitioner Hospital with 13 beds is situated in Kingsbridge. The area is also served by hospitals at Plymouth, Totnes, Dartmouth and Torbay.

2. Laboratory Service

Bacteriological examinations of pathological specimens and samples of milk, water, and ice cream are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Plymouth. The chemical analysis of water is undertaken by Public Analysts at Exeter, and also by the South West Devon Water Board.

3. County Health Services

Under the National Health Services Act, 1946, the County Council provides the following services:-

Domiciliary midwives, home nurses, health visitors, supervisory care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five, ambulance services, vaccination and immunisation procedures.

A chiropody service is in operation for the handicapped, the aged and expectant mothers. Clinics are held at Dartmouth, Kingsbridge, Salcombe, Stokenham, Thurlestone and Yealmpton.

4. Social Services

The Area Director of Social Services at The Family Welfare Centre, Pomeroy House, Bridgetown, Totnes (Telephone: Totnes 3665) is responsible for providing a social work service under the Children's Acts, The Mental Health Act, 1959, and the National Assistance Act, to the elderly, the mentally ill, the physically handicapped, and homeless persons and families. The Social Services Department also administers the Home Help Service, the Social Work Service to schools, the Occupational Therapy Services,

and residential homes and centres.

5. General Medical and Dental Services

Three General Medical Practitioners live in villages in the District, and also seventeen doctors and ten dentists from adjoining towns serve the area.

6. Mass Miniature Radiography

The Unit visited Kingsbridge and Dartmouth regularly once a fortnight, and all persons living adjacent to those towns were easily able to obtain a chest X-ray.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1971.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse	74
Litter	59
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	416
Infectious Diseases	30
Inspections of Caravan Sites	147
Houses inspected under Public	84
Pests	12
Nuisances	35
Food Premises (Shops, Dairies, Hotels, etc.)	282
Public Conveniences	13
Rodent Control	26
Ice Cream Samples	15
Water Samples	48
Water Supplies	54
Improvement Grants	221
Wrecks of the Sea	1
Slaughter of Animals Act	-
Petroleum Regulations	83
Dangerous Buildings	51
Drainage	56
Miscellaneous	62
Food Inspection	14
Factories	17
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	12
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	-
Streams and Watercourses	22
Oil Pollution	73
Coastal Erosion	9
Flooding	7
Rent Act	11
Fire Regulations	20
	1,954

MEAT INSPECTION

During the year 267 visits were made to slaughterhouses in the District. The following carcases were inspected:

Cows	7
Heifers	67
Steers	202
Calves	16
Sheep	1,429
Pigs	122
	1,843

Total weight of meat condemned - 1 ton 9 cwt.3 qtrs.13½ lbs.

Diseased meat, etc. is collected by arrangement and converted into glues and fertilisers.

Income from meat inspection charges amounted to £93.77p.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle exclg. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	269	7	16	1,429	122
Number inspected	269	7	16	1,429	122
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:					
Whole carcases condemned	3	1	3	8	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	42	4	1	93	18
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	16.72	71.42	25.00	7.06	15.57
Tuberculosis only	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis:					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

OTHER FOODS

The following table indicates the number of food premises in the area, by type of business:

Bakehouses	6
Butchers' shops	8
Fishmongers and fryers ..	3
Ice cream retailers	102
General stores	63
Dairies	3
Restaurants and cafes	30
Hotels and guest houses ..	82
Inns	41
Sweet confectioners	8
	346

Registration of Premises under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955:

Sale of Ice Cream	102
Manufacture of Preserved Food	10
Number of new registrations under Section 16	10

Amount of food condemned during the year - 85 lbs.

Ice Cream Sampling:

4 samples of ice cream were taken for examination during the year.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Licensed Sites and Caravans:

Number of Sites	30
Number of Caravans licensed ..	1,259
Licensed individual caravans ..	32

Fifteen sites, each with a limit of five caravans, were exempt by virtue of membership of the Caravan Club. In addition, there were two mobile sites run by the Caravan and Camping Clubs.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART 1 of the Act

INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Health Inspector):

Premises	No. in Register	Inspect-ions	Number of Written Notices	Occupier Prose-cuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (Factories without mechanical power)	0	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Factories with mechanical power)	35	17	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
	35	17	-	-

There is one out-worker.

RODENT CONTROL

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of Properties in District	4,708	799
2. (a) Number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	183	127
(b) Number of properties inspected in Section 2(a) which were found to be infested by:		
(i) Rats	135	118
(ii) Mice	31	14
3. (a) Number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	1,474	38
(b) Number of properties inspected in Section 3(a) which were found to be infested by:		
(i) Rats	778	7
(ii) Mice	7	-

SEWERS

Eight areas were found to be infested during the year, and were treated accordingly.

WATER SUPPLIES

Parish	Number of Habitable Houses	Number connected to Water Mains	Estimated Population served
Aveton Gifford ..	258	154	385
Bigbury	220	191	477
Blackawton	175	131	327
Buckland-tout-Saints ..	58	40	100
Charleton	175	148	370
Chivelstone	140	115	287
Churchstow	134	93	232
East Allington ..	143	121	302
East Portlemouth ..	109	94	235
Kingston	136	119	297
Loddiswell	269	230	575
Malborough	425	379	947
Modbury	429	384	950
Ringmore	98	94	235
Sherford	97	61	152
Slapton	192	163	408
South Huish	247	222	555
South Milton	149	132	330
South Pool	129	114	285
Stoke Fleming	403	357	890
Stokenham	701	628	1,570
Strete	164	146	365
Thurlestone	360	332	830
West Alvington ..	200	173	433
Woodleigh	55	36	91
	5,466	4,657	11,628

These figures relate to houses in existence on 1st April, 1971.

WATER SAMPLES

Source of Sample	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
* South West Devon Water Board Mains	321	7	328
Private Supplies	16	29	45
	337	36	373

* These figures include samples of water not in supply to consumers.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, 1971.

Grants for Improvement of Dwellings under Section 2, Housing Act, 1969 - Discretionary Grants

(a)	Formal Applications received		58
	Applications approved:	Owner-occupied	25
		Other dwellings ..	22
(b)	Grants paid		£6,684

Grants for Improvement of Dwellings under Section 8, Housing Act, 1969 - Standard Grants

(a)	Formal Applications received		16
	Applications approved:	Owner-occupied	7
		Other dwellings ..	6

(b) Grants paid:

Number of dwellings: 15 Total amount..£3,109

Amenities provided:	Bathrooms	4
	Baths or showers ..	11
	Washhand basins ..	14
	Hot water supply ..	14
	Water closets ..	14
	Sinks	5
	Septic tanks	1
	Piped water supply ..	1

HOUSES DEALT WITH AS INDIVIDUAL UNFIT OR SLUM CLEARANCE AREAS

Represented	3
Confirmed	3
Demolished	2
Families rehoused	1
Unfit houses made fit	8